

Testimony submitted for the CT Appropriations Committee in response to the governor's budget for 2022-2023 by the **National Organization for Women CT (NOW CT)**

NOW CT advocates for a wide range of economic justice issues that can limit women's and children's freedom and success. These include access to affordable health care such as Husky A,B, C and D and financial support such as TANF. NOW knows that the inability to access affordable health care and temporary financial support impacts women more frequently than men and impacts women in the BIPOC community at higher rates.as well, We believe that economic justice is intertwined with racial justice and true equality for women..

**The National Organization for Women (NOW)** is calling on the CT Appropriations Committee to expand Connecticut's Medicaid Program(Husky A,B,C and D) to make sure that everyone who is **at 200% of federal poverty level** or below has access to quality, affordable health care **regardless of immigration status**. Increasing access to medical coverage is the right thing to do and is what **women** need and are requesting. You have the power to help us in this difficult time.

This last two years have been a difficult time for **women and their families** and health coverage is so important to our physical and mental wellbeing. Women are and have been carrying unequal burdens during the Covid 19 pandemic.

In this time of pandemic, Ct should be **expanding coverage and supports** not limiting them. **Women** are the majority of the participants in these programs and we need the CT legislature's support at this stressful time. Please find the funds to **increase these essential services** now so we can all move forward together.

Thank you for your consideration. Maggie Goodwin for the **NOW CT Board**